

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows.

Page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 25:

New methods for supporting a catalyst on a carrier have been attempted in recent years. In J. Soc. Powder Technol., Japan, 39, [[662-69]] 662-669 (2002), Takehira reports preparing a perovskite oxide precursor into whose structure active metal component was uniformly dissolved in solid solution, and then heating and reducing the precursor to deposit the active metal component of the structure on the surface. The result is said to be stable and resistant to sintering because highly dispersed, ultra-fine particles are generated when metal present in the structure as ions is reduced and also because the ultra-fine particles generated in this manner exhibit strong affinity for the matrix.